CLAIMS:

1. A method of obtaining hearing ability related data from a subject, comprising:

outputting tones or sounds;

monitoring the subject's responses to the tones or sounds;

detecting an error condition based on the responses;

automatically delivering corrective instruction based on the error condition detected;

resuming the hearing evaluation by outputting tones or sounds; and

iterating the steps of outputting, monitoring, detecting, automatically delivering and resuming until evaluation of the subject's hearing has been completed.

2 The method of claim 1, wherein the steps of outputting test tones and monitoring the subject's responses to the test tones are performed according to a logical testing procedure.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the logical testing procedure is the Hughson-Westlake procedure.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the corrective instructions are audible instructions.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the corrective instructions are visual instructions.

6. A multimedia audiometer comprising:

a computer selectively operable to produce instructions represented by sound waves and/or visual images;

microprocessor circuitry operatively coupled to the computer, the microprocessor circuitry including a central processing unit (CPU) and a memory;

audio circuitry operatively coupled to the computer, the audio circuitry being operable to generate audible test tones;

an interface operatively coupled to the computer and the microprocessor circuitry for signaling whether a test subject perceives the audible test tones generated by the audio circuitry; and

software stored in at least one of the computer and the memory of the microprocessor circuitry, the software operating the computer, the microprocessor circuitry, the audio circuitry and the interface to generate the audible test tones, monitor responses by the test subject, detect errors in the test subject's responses, and selectively produce the instructions in response to the detected errors.

7. The multimedia audiometer of claim 6, wherein the responses of the test subject are compiled and stored in at least one of the computer and the memory of the microprocessor circuitry.

8. The multimedia audiometer of claim 7, wherein the software operates the computer, the microprocessor circuitry, the audio circuitry and the interface according to a pre-programmed logical testing procedure.

9. The multimedia audiometer of claim 8, wherein the logical testing procedure is the Hughson-Westlake procedure.

10. The multimedia audiometer of claim 6, wherein the software is stored in the computer.

11. The multimedia audiometer of claim 6, wherein the software is stored in the memory of the microprocessor circuitry.

12. A computer adapted to perform an audiometric test of a subject, comprising:

a test tone generator;

an input/output interface; and

software programmed to control the test tone generator to produce audible test tones, monitor responses by the subject received over the input/output interface, detect errors in the subject's responses, and selectively produce corrective instructions in response to the detected errors.

13. The computer of claim 12, wherein the software is operable to compile the responses of the subject and store results of the audiometric test.

14. The computer of claim 13, wherein the software is operable to display and/or print the results of the audiometric test.